

## Delta Plan Development

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**Summary:** Preparation of the Delta Plan is being initiated with development of white papers and the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Draft Delta Plan and Draft EIR will be prepared by June 2011, and the Final Delta Plan and Final EIR will be prepared by December 2011 to comply with Water Code Section 85300.

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### **Background**

The fundamental purpose of the Delta Plan is to meet the state's coequal goals for the Delta and all of the inherent subgoals defined by statute. As defined in the Delta Reform Act, the term coequal goals "means the two goals of providing a more reliable water supply for California and protecting, restoring, and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. The coequal goals shall be achieved in a manner that protects and enhances the unique cultural, recreational, natural resource, and agricultural values of the Delta as an evolving place."

The Delta Plan will define an integrated and legally enforceable set of policies, strategies, and actions that will serve as a basis for future findings of consistency by State and local agencies with regard to their proposed, Delta-related projects ("covered actions"), and for subsequent evaluation of those findings by the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) on appeal, as provided in statute and Council regulation. The Delta Plan will be developed concurrently with the EIR so that information from the EIR can be used by the Council to develop the Delta Plan alternatives and subsequently the Delta Plan itself. The NOP for the EIR is anticipated to be filed in early December. Seven EIR scoping meetings will be held in January 2011 to gather public input for the Delta Plan alternatives and environmental review.

White papers are being prepared to describe historic and existing conditions and trends related to the Delta ecosystem, Delta flood risks, Delta emergency preparedness, Delta land uses and socioeconomics, and agriculture. The Delta ecosystem and flood risk white papers were presented at the October 2010 Council meeting. The Delta emergency preparedness and Delta land uses white papers were presented at the November 2010 Council meeting. The Delta agriculture and water resources white papers (Attachments 1 and 2) will be presented at the December 2010 Council meeting.

The white papers and comments on the white papers will be used to develop the Existing Conditions – or Environmental Setting – sections of the EIR and to identify opportunities and strategies for the Delta Plan alternatives. Public comments received on the white papers will be included in the Comment Tracking program.

Work is beginning on preparation of the Delta Plan. The first draft of the Delta Plan is scheduled to be presented at the February 2011 Council meeting. A preliminary Delta Plan outline (Attachment 3) will be discussed at the December 2010 Council meeting.

**List of Attachments**

Attachment 1: Agricultural White Paper  
Attachment 2: Water Resources White Paper  
Attachment 3: Delta Plan Proposed Draft Outline  
Attachment 4: Comment Matrix for Comments Received from November 8, 2010 through December 3, 2010  
Attachment 5: Delta Plan and EIR Schedule

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